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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Technical specifications

Data transfer	⬥ PCI 2.1 bus
DSP (Digital Signal Processor)	⬥ Next generation Crystal CS4624
Audio quality	⬥ 18-bit ADC / 20-bit DAC
Game compatibility	⬥ EAX 1.0, EAX 2.0, A3D 1.0, I3DL2 ⬥ Sensaura's MacroFX, MultiDrive, ZoomFX, EnvironmentFX
Audio compatibility	⬥ Microsoft DirectSound 3D

Software wavetable synthesizer	⬥ DSP accelerated synthesis engine for an unlimited number of voices (64-voice hardware)
	⬥ 8MB GM / GS sample set
	⬥ DLS support - GM (General MIDI)
	⬥ Yamaha Soft Synthesizer S-YXG50:
	       - 676 instrument sounds and 21 drum kits
	       - Effects: XG compatible, reverb and chorus

1.2. System requirements

- Intel Pentium II or AMD-K6 and higher or compatible
- USB port
- PCI 2.1 slot
- 64MB RAM
- CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE, Millennium, 2000 or XP

2. HARDWARE INSTALLATION

If your computer is already equipped with a sound card, you must remove all existing drivers to avoid any subsequent conflict between old and new drivers.

⚠️ Some sound cards are integrated into your PC motherboard and cannot therefore be physically uninstalled. Contact your PC manufacturer for details on how to disable these chipsets.
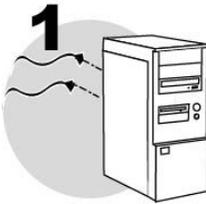
Switch off the PC and any peripherals such as the monitor or printer.
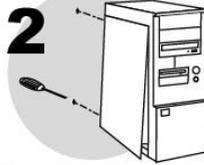
1. Unplug the power supply cable(s).

2. Remove the PC cover (for further information, consult your PC manual).
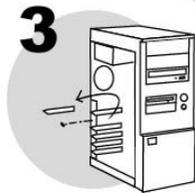
3. If a sound card has not been previously installed, unscrew the slot cover corresponding to the appropriate PCI slot and remove it.

   If your PC already has a sound card, remove it, keeping the screw which attached the previous card.

⚠ Static electricity can severely damage electronic components. Before removing the card from its plastic bag, touch the metallic back plate of your PC with your hand to discharge any static electricity from your body.
- Do not touch the printed circuits on the card.
- Do not let anybody else hold the card.
- Do not let your clothes touch any of the components.

4. Insert your sound card into its slot, pushing firmly on the card to make sure it is properly fixed in place.

5. Screw the card bracket into position on your computer chassis.

6. Connect your CD-ROM / DVD-ROM drive to your sound card by connecting the audio cable (not included) to the **CD IN** input on your card. (If you do not connect the drive to the sound card, there will be no sound from your audio CDs!)

7. Replace the PC cover and reconnect the power supply cable(s).

3. CONNECTING THE EXTERNAL RACK TO YOUR SYSTEM

⚠️ Failure to connect the USB extension to one of the USB ports on your PC will prevent you from using any USB device that you plug in via the external rack.

1. Ensure that your computer and all accompanying hardware are shut down before attempting to connect the Game Theater XP 7.1 external rack.

2. Connect the end of the two-meter cable with the USB extension to the DB-25 connector on your Game Theater XP 7.1 soundboard.

3. Plug the USB extension of the cable into one of the USB ports at the back of your computer.

4. Connect the end of the cable labeled **Rack** to the connector labeled **Computer** on the Game Theater XP 7.1 external rack.

USB port

Game Theater XP 7.1

Rack
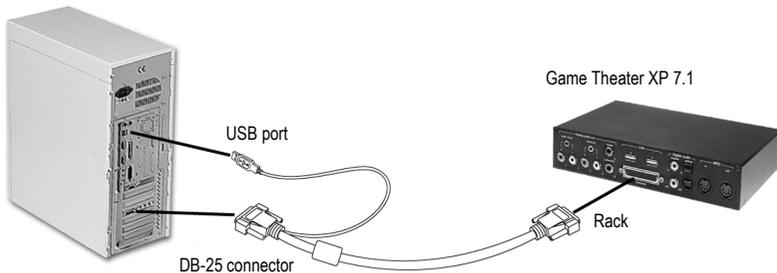
DB-25 connector

⚠️ Do not connect the USB connector on the PCI cable to the external rack. Reversing the connections may seriously damage your equipment.

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PORTUGUÊS

HOTLINE

4. SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

Once your sound card has been installed, switch your PC back on. Because the configuration of the card is Plug and Play, Windows will automatically detect its presence.

N.B.: your installation screens and procedure may vary slightly from those described in this manual.

Because drivers are constantly being developed, the driver provided on your CD-ROM may not be the most recent version. You can visit the Hercules website (www.hercules.com) to verify this and, if necessary, download the very latest version.

4.1. Driver installation

4.1.1. Driver installation for Windows 98 SE / Millennium

Windows will display an **Add New Hardware Wizard** *dialog box informing you that the system has found the following device:* **PCI Multimedia Audio Device** *(Crystal SoundFusion (tm)* under Windows Millennium).

- Click on **Cancel** to install your optimized Hercules drivers.

- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

If the installation menu is not launched automatically:

- Double-click on **My Computer**.

- Double-click on the 🖼 icon.

- Click on **Drivers**.

- Follow the on-screen instructions.

Windows will prompt you to reboot your computer.

- Click on **Finish**.

The drivers for your sound card will be automatically installed when Windows reboots. (Please have your Windows 98 SE CD-ROM handy before commencing installation. You may be prompted to insert it during driver installation.)

- Windows 98 SE will display a **Windows 98 Second Edition Q269601** dialog box.

- Click on **Yes** to continue.

- Reboot your computer.

4.1.2. Driver installation for Windows 2000

When your computer starts up, Windows will automatically install the standard drivers for your Game Theater XP 7.1.

- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive to install your optimized Hercules drivers.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

- Click on **Drivers**.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.

Windows will now install the different elements of your Game Theater XP 7.1 sound card: **Hercules Game Theater(tm) 7.1**, **Hercules Game Theater(tm) 7.1 WDM Interface** *and* **Hercules(R) Game Port**. *Windows may display the* **Digital Signature Not Found** *dialog box.*

- Click on **Yes**.

4.1.3. Driver installation for Windows XP

When your computer starts up, Windows will automatically install the standard drivers for your Game Theater XP 7.1.

- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive to install your optimized Hercules drivers.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

- Click on **Drivers**.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.
- Click on **Finish**.

Windows will now install the different elements of your Game Theater XP 7.1 sound card: **Hercules Game Theater(tm) 7.1**, **Hercules Game Theater(tm) 7.1 WDM Interface** *and* **Hercules(R) Game Port**. *Windows will display a* **Found New Hardware Wizard** *dialog box. The wizard will suggest that you* **Install the software automatically (Recommended)**.

- Click on **Next**.

Windows may display a Hardware Installation warning.

- Click on **Continue anyway**.
- Click on **Finish** to complete the setup.

4.2. Applications installation

- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

If the installation menu is not launched automatically:

- Double-click on **My Computer**.

- Double-click on the icon.

- Simply select each element you wish to install and follow the on-screen instructions to install them.

DirectX™	*DirectX* You can easily install DirectX to take advantage of all the latest innovations from the world of 3D. Once the installation has finished, your computer will automatically reboot.
Acrobat Reader®	*Adobe Acrobat Reader* Acrobat Reader allows you to view, navigate and print documents in PDF format.
Drivers	*Game Theater XP 7.1 drivers* If you encountered problems when installing your Game Theater sound card drivers, click this button to set them up properly.
Manuals	*Electronic documentation* Install the electronic version (PDF) of the Game Theater XP 7.1 manual on your PC.
Register	*Save time by registering your product online!* Registering with us in this way will simplify the process if you ever need to contact our technical support team. If you wish, you can also be added to our priority mailing list to receive information about our new Hercules products and our latest special offers.
PowerDVD™ PRO EX	*PowerDVD Pro EX* With Cyberlink PowerDVD, the world acclaimed software DVD player, you will have the ultimate DVD solution to enjoy all the benefits DVD entertainment has to offer! With its high quality video and audio playback, as well as its low CPU consumption, PowerDVD is the number one choice for high quality DVD playback!

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Hercules® MediaStation II	*Hercules MediaStation II*
	Hercules MediaStation II is a multifunctional software package for easy playback of digital music, videos and pictures*.
	Hercules MediaStation II enables you to listen to songs and mix or record* different styles of music.
	With Hercules MediaStation II, the PC user can view digital videos and pictures. The extra option provides the facility to create slide shows using pictures you have just taken with your digital camera!
	Intuitive and sophisticated, Hercules MediaStation II is destined to become your favorite everyday software companion!
	*See your electronic documentation or options window for a list of supported formats.
Acid™ Xpress	*Acid Xpress*
	Acid Xpress is Sonic Foundry's loop-based multi-track music creation tool. Make your own original music with the click of a mouse and a couple of paint strokes. Combine music and sound loops to create professional-quality music instantly.

If you have aborted the installation procedure, the following instructions will launch the installation menu again:

- Double-click on **My Computer**.

- Double-click on the icon.

5. THE GAME THEATER XP 7.1 CONTROL PANEL

Click on the icon on the taskbar to launch the Game Theater XP 7.1 control panel.

The Game Theater XP 7.1 control panel allows you to control sound levels, enable/disable sound effects and modify the default configuration of your Game Theater XP 7.1 sound card. The control panel is easy to use and is complemented by a popup help system. For information on a particular function simply click on the **?** symbol in the upper right corner and a help menu will appear.

6. YOUR GAME THEATER XP 7.1

Front Panel
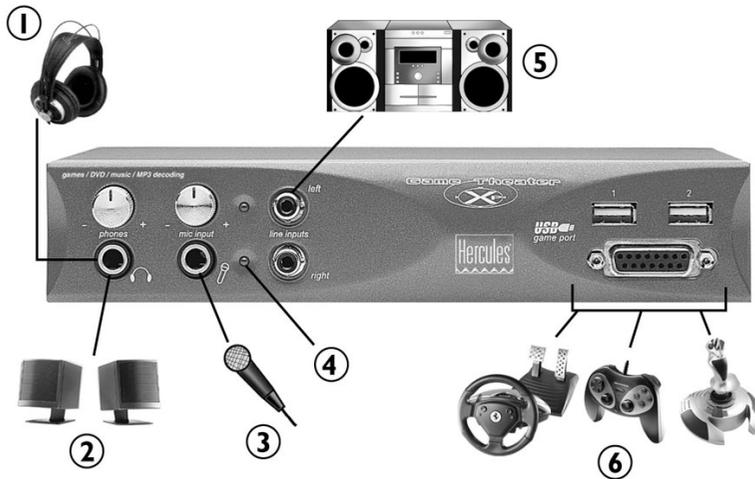
①   Connect headphones
②   Connect 2 additional speakers* to get 8 speakers (7.1 360° surround sound with Dolby Digital EX 7.1 on DVDs)
③   Mic
④   Mic power indicator
⑤   Connect a stereo line-in
⑥   Connect game controllers either to the USB ports (1 & 2) or to the game port*

*amplified speakers required

⚠   It is not possible to receive a MIDI signal through the game port and the MIDI-In DIN connector (located at the rear) simultaneously.

Rear Panel

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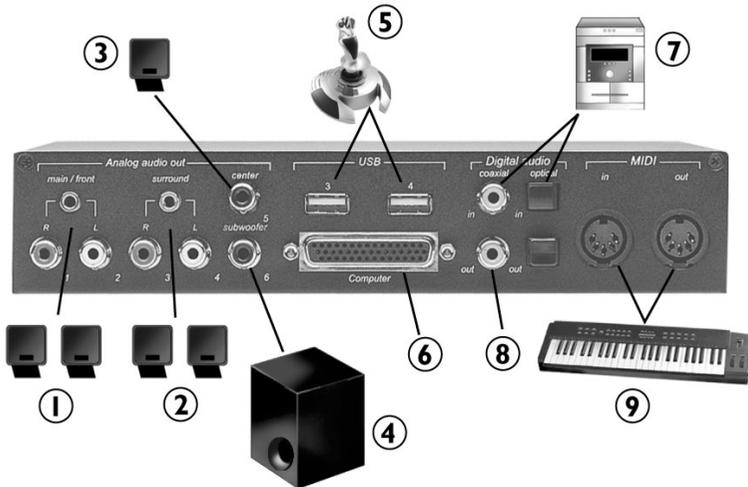
①   Front speakers: connect to **main/front** mini jack or to 2 mono gold plated RCA connectors
②   Rear speakers: connect to **surround** mini jack or to 2 mono gold plated RCA connectors
③   Center speaker: connect to **center** gold plated RCA connector
④   Subwoofer: connect to **subwoofer** gold plated RCA connector
⑤   Game port: high-speed 4-port USB hub
⑥   DB-44 connector to PCI soundboard
⑦   Minidisc or digital audio tape player: connect to digital (co-axial and optical) S/PDIF input ports (32, 44, 48kHz)
⑧   Digital (co-axial and optical) S/PDIF output ports (set to 48kHz)
⑨   Midi keyboard: MIDI-In/MIDI-out DIN connectors (MPU-401 compatible)

Note: use the Aux-In on the soundboard to connect the audio output of other boards installed on your machine (e.g. TV/video board….).

7. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Before you contact us (*), please have the following information/items ready:
- Product name,
- Date of purchase of your product,
- Your full system configuration details: processor type, memory, operating system,
- Pen and paper.

Please have your computer switched on and ready at the point where you have encountered a problem.

7.1. If you need to return a product

Hercules offers a standard 3 year parts & service warranty (2 years in OEM version).

1. To return a product for factory service, contact a Hercules technical support representative at the phone number corresponding to the country you live in (*).
   - **In the United Kingdom**: before taking any action please contact our Technical Support Dept. on **020 7216 0047** or by email at **hercules.uk@guillemotsupport.com** who will be able to advise you as to the best possible solution.
   - **In Continental Europe, Australia and New Zealand**: after receiving confirmation from our technical support service (*) that your product is defective, please follow the instructions we provide to have your product replaced.
   - **In the USA and Canada**: refund policies apply to products purchased directly from Hercules (30 days).

2. When returning the product, be sure to include all materials, such as the manual(s), connection cable(s), installation CD(s) and the product packaging box. **Note: only packages that have been assigned an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) number by a technical support agent will be accepted.**

(*) Hotline details are listed at the end of this manual.

7.2. Save time by registering your product online!

Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive and click on **Register**. Registering with us in this way will simplify the process if you ever need to contact our technical support team. If you wish, you can also be added to our priority mailing list to receive information about our new Hercules products and our latest special offers.

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Declaration of conformity

EC COMPLIANCE NOTICE: this equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits of the Council Directive 89/336/EEC of 3 May 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility, amended by Directive 93/68/EEC. The audio translator has been tested and found to comply with EN 50081-1 /1992: EN55022, EN 50082-1 /1997: EN61000-4-2/-3/-8, EN 50204. In a domestic environment this product may cause radio interference in which case the user may be required to take adequate measures.

CANADIAN COMPLIANCE NOTICE: this Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

USA COMPLIANCE NOTICE: this equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and

(2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment on and off, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures: reorient or relocate the receiving antenna, increase the separation between the equipment and receiver, connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected, consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

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